

basis. Abroad, the effect of conservatism has been such, that, aside from Garrod and Fürbringer, Merrem's divisions, which had the sanction of adoption by Huxley, have been almost universally retained, and even Gadow in his Classification of the Vertebrata keeps the Tinamous in an order next the fowls. We are therefore glad to see these birds placed by Mr. Pycraft where we believe them to belong and where a strict osteological diagnosis puts them.

Mr. Pycraft uses the antithetical terms *Palæognathæ* and *Neognathæ* to designate the two main groups into which he divides existing birds, the former comprising the 'Ratite' birds and Tinamous, the latter including all other birds.

The Neognathous type of palate is considered to have been derived from the Palæognathous, the Tinamous presenting a stage somewhat intermediate between the two, and the palate of *Rhea* indicating how the change may have been brought about; furthermore the ægithognathous and schizognathous types of skull are but modifications of the dromæognathous, and the desmognathous a secondary modification of the schizognathous. This last may, we think, be accepted without question, but the former statement should at present be received with a little caution owing to our exceedingly imperfect knowledge of early birds. It may not be amiss here to say that the skull of *Hesperornis*, as shown by a specimen in the University of Kansas, was devoid of basipterygoid processes and that the arrangement of the bones of the palate appears to have been very peculiar.

The palæognathæ are regarded as polyphyletic probably tri-phyletic, while the neognathæ have been derived as a diverging branch from that stock which gave rise to *Rhea*, *Dinornis* and *Æpyornis*. *Dromæus* is the most primitive of living birds, with *Casuarinus* not far distant, while *Struthio* is perhaps derived from the same ancestral stock as these two and is not far removed. *Apteryx* is looked upon as quite distinct from the others, and *Rhea* as the most highly specialized of the large forms.

Such are some of the conclusions reached by Mr. Pycraft, and we are promised a discussion of the phylogeny of the Neognathæ later.—F. A. L.

Bangs on New American Birds.—During the last few months Mr. Outram Bangs has described a number of new American birds additional to those recently characterized by him in 'The Auk.' These include a new Honey Creeper from San Miguel Island, Panama,¹ which he has named *Cæreba cerinoclunis*; a new *Phaëthornis* (*P. longirostris susurrans*) from the Santa Marta region of Colombia²; a new *Ortalis* (*O. struthopus*) from San Miguel Island, Bay of Panama³; and a new form of the Red-

¹ Proc. New Engl. Zoölogical Club, II, pp. 51, 52. Feb. 8, 1901.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 63-65. July 31, 1901.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 61, 62. July 31, 1901.

tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis umbrinus*) from Florida,¹ based on a single specimen collected at Myakka, Manatee County. He thinks it may be only a straggler to Florida from Cuba. Mr. Bangs has also described a new subspecies of *Stelgidopteryx* (*S. ruficollis æqualis*) from Santa Marta, Colombia,² and passed in review the other members of the *ruficollis* group, namely, *S. uropygialis* Lawr., and *S. fulvipennis* (Scl.), which he looks upon as merely subspecies of *S. ruficollis*.

In conjunction with Mr. Brewster, he has also distinguished a new form of *Aithya* from Jamaica,³ which these authors have named *Aithya scitulus*, distinguished from *A. polytmus* by smaller size, darker colors, and a much shorter, wholly black bill. — J. A. A.

Bangs on Birds from the Liu Kiu Islands.⁴ — A collection of 107 specimens recently received by the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, was found to comprise 56 forms, of which six are described by Mr. Bangs as new. The paper forms an important addition to our knowledge of the ornithology of these little known islands. — J. A. A.

Chapman on New Birds from Peru.⁵ — A small collection of birds made by Mr. H. H. Keays, for the American Museum of Natural History, at Inca Mines, southeastern Peru, proved of exceptional interest, containing, besides several rare species, six forms that Mr. Chapman has characterized as new. These are *Chlorochrysa fulgentissima*, *Melanothraupis castaneiceps*, *Euphonia xanthogastra brunneifrons*, *Chlorospingus flavigularis parvirostris*, *Ochthoeca keaysi*, and *Terenura xanthonota*. — J. A. A.

Grinnell on New California Birds. — In recent numbers of 'The Condor' Mr. Joseph Grinnell continues to distinguish local forms among the birds of California, characterizing in the May-June issue (pp. 65, 66), two new forms of the Yellow-throat, under the names of *Geothlypis trichas scirpicola* and *G. t. sinuosa*, the former being a "permanent resident" of the fresh-water tulé beds of Los Angeles County and the latter a "permanent resident" of the salt marshes about San Francisco Bay. *G. t. sinuosa* is thus a further refinement of *G. t. arizela* Oberh., which Mr. Grinnell allows a wide range on the Pacific slope in the breeding season, — from "Central California to British Columbia."

¹ *Ibid.*, pp. 67-69. July 31, 1901.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 57-60. July 31, 1901.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 47-50. Feb. 8, 1901.

⁴ On a Collection of Birds from the Liu Kiu Islands. By Outram Bangs. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., XXXVI, No. 8, pp. 255-269. July, 1901.

⁵ Descriptions of Six apparently New Birds from Peru. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., XVI, pp. 225-228. Sept. 12, 1901.